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AGERATUM PLANT NAMED 'AGETIS'

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Latin name of the genus and species of the plant claimed

Ageratum houstonianum

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Variety denomination

'AGETIS'

Background of the new plant

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The present invention comprises a new distinct cultivar of Ageratum, botanically known as *Ageratum houstonianum*. The new cultivar is propagated from cuttings resulting from the cross of 'Q343-2' and 'S570-2'. 'Q343-2' is a purple flowering Ageratum having a compact habit. 'Q343-2' is not commercially available and is not known by any synonyms.

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'S570-2' is a blue and white flowering Ageratum having an upright habit. 'S570-2' is a selection from the variety 'Southern Cross'.

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Neither 'Q342-2' or 'S570-2' has been patented. As a result of this cross the present cultivar was created in 1997 in Enkhuizen, Netherlands and has been repeatedly asexually reproduced by cuttings in Enkhuizen, Netherlands, in Gilroy, USA, in Angers, France and in Sarrians, France over a three-year period. The distinctive characteristics of this new Ageratum are stable and reproduced true to type in successive generations of asexual reproduction. It takes 9 to 11 weeks to produce a finished plant, depending on the temperature.

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This new Ageratum plant is an annual in most climatical zones in the US, only in zones 9 and 10 is it a perennial plant.

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Description of the drawing

This new Ageratum plant is illustrated by the accompanying photographic drawing which shows blooms, buds and foliage of the plant in full color, the color shown being as true as
5 can be reasonably obtained by conventional photographic procedures.

Description of the new cultivar

10 The following detailed descriptions set forth the distinctive characteristics of this new Ageratum. The data which defines these characteristics were collected from asexual reproductions carried out in Enkhuizen, Netherlands. The plant history was taken on 20 weeks old plants, blossomed under natural light and artificial light in a greenhouse. Color readings were taken in the greenhouse under ambient light. Color references are primarily
15 to the RHS Color Chart of the Royal Horticultural Society of London.

Table 1

Differences between the new variety 'Agetis', its parents and a similar cultivar

Character	'Agetis'	'Q343-2'	'S570-2'	'R116'
Flower color	Violet	Purple	Blue and white	Violet
Size of capitulum	16-21 mm	6-9 mm	16-21 mm	7-9 mm
Plant height	30-40 cm	20-25 cm	25-35 cm	20-25 cm
Branching	At every internode	At every internode	Not at every internode	At every internode

The Plant

Classification - Botanical	:	<i>Ageratum houstonianum</i>
Parentage - Female parent	:	A seedling named 'Q343-2' is one of our seedlings from our Q-generation of plants bred in 1987
5 - Pollen parent	:	A seedling named 'S570-2' is one of our seedlings from our S-generation of plants bred in 1997
Growth habit	:	Erect, well branched
Plant height	:	30-40 cm
Spreading area of plant	:	30-40 cm
10 Growth rate	:	Vigorous
Strength	:	Very good
Branching character	:	Freely branching and lateral branching at every node
Blooming period	:	Year round

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The stem

Diameter	:	2-2.5 mm
Shape	:	Round
Color	:	145 B
20 Anthocyan pigmentation	:	Absent
Length of the stems	:	11- 40 cm
Length of the internodes	:	30 - 42 mm, depending on the light where the plant is propagate
Pubescence	:	Slightly pubescent

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The Foliage

Phyllotaxis	:	Opposite, decussate
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	Shape of blade	:	Ovate
	Texture - Upper side	:	Slightly pubescent
	- Lower side	:	Slightly pubescent
	Venation	:	Reticulate
5	Leaf margin	:	Crenate
	Leaf base	:	Cordate
	Leaf apex	:	Rounded
	Length	:	27-63 mm
	Width	:	30-68 mm
10	Color - Upper side	:	Dark green 137A
	- Lower side	:	Medium green 143A
	Pubescence	:	Some pubescence is present
	Length of petiole	:	11-15 mm
	Color of petiole	:	Light green 145C
15	Petiole surface texture	:	Slightly pubescent

Inflorescence

	Inflorescence	:	Compound umbel of capitula
	Length of peduncle	:	18-35 mm
20	Diameter of peduncle	:	2 - 3 mm
	Color of peduncle exposed to light	:	RHS 152B
	Color of peduncle not exposed to light:	RHS 145A	
	Length of pedicel	:	4-11 mm
	Diameter of pedicel	:	1 - 2 mm
25	Color of pedicel	:	RHS 145A
	Number of inflorescence per plant	:	5 - 9 when ready for sale
	Diameter of umbel	:	4 - 6 cm

	Depth of umbel	: 2 - 5 cm
	Number of capitula per inflorescence	: 10-19
	Number of disc florets per capitulum	: 80-120
	Capitulum in bud stage bud	: round, flat capitulum, showing unopened florets
5		from the start
	Number of ray florets	: 0
	Shape of corolla of the disk floret	: actinomorph
	Number of lobes	: 5
	Length of disc floret	: 4 - 5 mm
10	Diameter of disc floret	: 1 - 2 mm
	Color of disc floret upper side	: RHS 083D
	Color of disc floret lower side	: RHS 157D
	Number of phyllaries per capitulum	: 23-25
	Length of phyllary	: 4-5 mm
15	Diameter of phyllary	: 1-2 mm
	Color of upper side of phyllary	: RHS 143A
	Color of lower side of phyllary	: RHS 143B
	Diameter of capitulum at beginning	
	of flowering	: 7-8 mm
20	Depth of capitulum	: 6-8 mm
	Color of capitulum at beginning	
	of flowering	: RHS 083D
	Diameter of capitulum at full	
	flowering	: 16-21 mm
25	Color of capitulum at full flowering	: RHS 086D

Reproductive organs

Number of pistels	:	1
Shape of pistels	:	style with two filiform branches
Length of stigma and style	:	8-9 mm
5 Color of stigma	:	RHS 091A
Inferior ovary	:	5-ribbed
Pappus	:	short
Number of anthers	:	5, connate in a tube, filaments free
Shape of anthers	:	ecalcarate
10 Pollen	:	no pollen is produced
Fragrance	:	No fragrance
Lastingness of the bloom	:	The capitula of one umbel open over a period of 5 to 6 weeks

15 Seeds

Seedset	:	No seedset has been observed
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Roots

Type of roots	:	Fibrous. Roots start to grow on every part of the stem that contacts the soil, so not only at the nodes.
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Physiological and ecological characteristics:

Good tolerance to heat and cold, but no frost tolerance. Strong resistance to pests and diseases.
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